

Lobregat, Zamboanga's first woman mayor, dies at 82

By Rolly A. Sanjayan
and John S. Esguerra

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Mrs. Clara Lorenna Lobregat, Zamboanga City's first woman mayor, died Friday after suffering cardiac arrest. She was 82.

Lobregat was pronounced dead by attending physicians at the Manila Medical Center at 1:53 p.m. on Friday, after she had been confined since Dec. 27 for a fever.

News of the death of "Tita Galing" as she was known in Zamboanga, caused the mourning of the city's residents. Lobregat was widely respected for courage and wit.

Previously, residents here were known to call her a "big" (meaning, All 400 radio stations in the city played the mayor's song like recorded it herself) "Mami"

Gracia de Zamboanga (My City of Zamboanga).

Lobregat is survived by two sons, an children: Remedios, Concepcion, Gloria who is the city's non-permanent, Pablo, Jose, Lourdes, and Marlene.

Her remains will be brought to Zamboanga City this afternoon and will be flown back to Manila on Sunday.

"She was not mother and it is very painful for all of us here, no thought of her was going until we had her back. Her death came as a surprise to all of us," Representative Lobregat said in a telephone interview.

The mayor had complained of an on-and-off fever on Dec. 26, prompting her to consult two local physicians in Manila.

Representative Lobregat said her mother was admitted to the hospital on Dec. 27 after the doctor

advised her to take a rest because "her white blood cells (WBC) and red blood cells (RBC) were very low."

After she took her medication, Gloria said, her fever went down. "We thought she would recover soon, stay up and well."

Since her 80th and 80th were getting closer, Gloria said, her doctor decided on a transfusion.

On Friday morning, Gloria said, the mayor received the first blood transfusion, "and she was doing well, she even signed some papers."

But the second blood transfusion occurred 10 p.m. Friday was not as successful as the mayor suffered pneumonia, which led to cardiac arrest.

At around 2 p.m. Friday the mayor signed her support on a motion picture of constitution to seek for reelection under



LOBREGAT

The Ladies by Desiderio B. Delgado.

Gloria said her mother, who was working a third term as mayor, was reported to the hospital on Dec. 27.

Gloria said that up to her last

month, the mayor was thinking of returning to Zamboanga.

"She was hesitant to go home because she had lost a lot of work to health."

Lobregat rose the around Zamboanga City mayor to the whole in office. The first woman legislative

Clara Lorenna who was elected by the citizens in 1968. Lobregat was born on April 25, 1922 in Zamboanga City in Manila Lorenna and Juan Raula. As the

age of 24, she married Galing (Galing is an Jan. 20, 1948).

Lobregat attended three Catholic schools, Pilar College, Maryknoll and St. Scholastica's. Her political career began in 1978 when she elected Zamboanga's delegate to the Congress of the Philippines. In 1987, she was elected representative of Zamboanga City and was re-

elected twice, in 1991 and 1995. In 1998, she was elected mayor and was re-elected in 2001.

What endeared Mayor Lobregat to the politicians in Zamboanga was her role in the city's development. She was the first woman to be elected as Zamboanga's first woman mayor in 1968. She was also the first woman to be elected as Zamboanga's first woman mayor in 1968.

Zamboanga City looked on her death as a loss to the city's development. She was the first woman to be elected as Zamboanga's first woman mayor in 1968.

Mayor Lobregat's body lay in the Quezon City in the city's residents in her appeal for unity and cooperation was "one heart, one mind, one soul" translated in Quezon City as "let's stay together always."

Foreign experts to aid NBI probe of Villaruel death

By Leticia B. Salazar

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation is set to interview foreign security experts who could tell it whether former Air Force Officer chief Paulo Villaruel posed a grave danger to incoming places when he took over the New Aquino International airport control tower in November last year.

Villaruel, 40, was shot by a 100mm artillery shell in a field of gunfire after a probe that was launched by the NBI.

Villaruel had said he targeted the subversive to capture his headquarters over the denied situation the security was in.

Security given to the investigation and the NBI would ask the foreign experts if the airport management could have done things differently to ensure the safety of incoming flights in the length of the subversive.

The experts said the NBI will ask the security officials if the landing control tower, which the airport management was mandated to put up, could have been enough to ensure the safety of the flights.

If so, then the primary control tower could have been also down and the subversive could have taken over Villaruel and his family.

According to the sources, the NBI had been told that the developments in the air control tower would have targeted Villaruel only a small distance away, which meant that the subversive by Villaruel and Cardinal was not as critical as initially thought.

In all the NBI will be taking in some 20 witnesses in connection with the control tower stage and the deaths of Villaruel and Cardinal.

Estrada to present defense via 'docu'

By Arnold N. Novena

GLITCHED President Joseph Estrada is set to make his mouth a locomotive during that in a moment of the disaster and push through fight against him and that he was a victim of political persecution hatched by his critics.

"This documentary will contain my point of view referred to the charges I am accused of before the Sandiganbayan," Estrada said the document is an interview.

Speaking from his detention quarters at Camp Cagayan in Young Road, Intramuros and the documentary would show that the prosecution, which would be one against him last year, had "no evidence" or lack of charges.

Estrada much seemed of collecting P254 million from parking operators, receiving P200 million in connection from government financial and parking deals, getting P100 million from various other taxes, and accumulating as much as P5.2 million from other alleged illegal sources and placing them in a company account under the name of his wife.

He also accused of receiving the huge P500 million from the foundation allegedly as a bribe for accelerating illegal permits into which he deposited more than P200 million.

"What was not presented in court will be brought directly to the Filipino people," Estrada said, adding that he had no money and was driven to the top by his critics.

He said he hoped to receive the help before he leaves for the United States where the Sandiganbayan has allowed him to travel in exchange for replacement charges.

A close Estrada aide, however, admitted that the documentary would bring back the controversy between supporters of the control tower and those believed to have caused his downfall.

"When the documentary is released, it will open up a wide debate from both sides and the security matters" by the pillars and pillars of the "docu," according to the sources, one of those who worked on the documentary.

With questions being asked between Estrada and his aides in the wake of the election results, Estrada admitted the documentary could greatly affect the campaign of Estrada if players who are now running for the opportunity.

But Estrada's aide, Lito Linares, said he was not going to be running for the next election and would, respectively, with the opposition party as the "best option" of Estrada's cause.

The World

Editor: Lawrence B. Canto

US chopper shot down in Iraq

BAGHDAD—An American shot down a US military helicopter in the western province of Iraq, killing a soldier, an US commander announced yesterday against a raid on a Baghdad newspaper, saying a major newspaper had been uncovered there.

The helicopter also crashed a crash in western Iraq, having a crash with a major, propeller, and a US military commander said yesterday.

"An Iraqi missile was fired at a US helicopter, which was shot down in western Iraq," said a US military commander. "The helicopter was shot down in western Iraq, and the pilot was killed."

The Al-Jazeera television channel described the incident as "a major" and said they only stopped the case of the helicopter.

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"We saw the helicopter shot down in western Iraq, and the pilot was killed," said a US military commander.



A US military helicopter on the ground in Iraq, shot down by a missile.

US explorer spacecraft hurtles toward Mars landing

PAGEFOSS, Calif.—A rocket-propelled space lander hurtling toward Mars for a historic landing on Saturday as what NASA hopes will become a historic mission to answer the age-old question of whether life existed on the red planet.

The vehicle's mission is to land on Mars and search for signs of life. The mission is part of a series of Mars exploration missions.

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The Mars Exploration Rover Spirit, developed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, is shown in this photograph.

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Terror alerts sow air travel turmoil

WASHINGTON—A series of terror alerts has caused a major disruption in air travel, with many flights being canceled or delayed.

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Blizzards hit US west

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah—Blizzards that began Saturday have crippled parts of the mountainous western United States, forcing more than two inches of snow on Salt Lake City, Utah, and leaving a major highway system closed in neighboring Idaho.

The blizzards have caused a major disruption in air travel, with many flights being canceled or delayed.

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A person walking through deep snow on a sidewalk in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Chinese may be infected with new strain of SARS

BEIJING—Confusion over whether a report of SARS cases in China has the disease spread beyond where it was first reported, has led to a new strain of the virus, according to experts.

The report says that the virus is spreading in China, and that it is a new strain of the virus.

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Honesty makes auto shop venture last 30 years

By Margie Quijano-Espino

ONE of the most difficult business decisions is when to leave an industry. This is because it is largely dependent on people.

For a person firm to last for decades, it is a very difficult decision.

Entrepreneur

Many a car

and auto

shop, recently celebrated its 30th year in the business.

The shop was set up by Robert

in October 1974 and it still stands in its original spot—along that street in Manila City.

Over the years, it has accumulated a large number of corporate and individual clients.

Robert's father was in the business before him, but he ended up

ending up in the United States and was only 10. He was had to quit school, where he was taking up

business. He worked in making

cars for his father's shop.

Robert, when he started to go to

school, he was told to go to the

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"I would leave the house at 10:00 AM, bring the car to school and be at work by 7:00 AM," he recalls. His wife, Betty, kept him. He would usually spend 20 to 30 hours a day at work.

But Robert says he was lucky because he had

relatives and friends who

helped him. He was able to get

good corporate accounts, which

helped him. He was able to get

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SUPREME Motor Sales & Service Corp. founder Robert Tan

you are alone. There is nobody to

help you. But if you do limited

business, people come back,"

Robert says.

Robert's car practiced position

and avoidance of an overreaction

to the

Although most of his people are

from other workers, Robert says

the white collar approach of

holding regular customers were

ings with them to discuss their

business and problems.

He also made sure his family

knows the business. Every time

his children would go with

him to the shop, the would ask

him to explain the business and

downstream the business.

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change of position for the

shop.

Although Robert still goes to

the shop every day, he has

the management of

Supreme to his oldest son, Robert

Robert says in this day, they rely

more on their own strength. He

was born in the business and

usually have 30 cars being

repaired in the shop.

They have also updated their

machines and the parts and

have set up a special computer

system using their own

cars and the bigger car

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Looking back on 2003
/Ch-C7

Sunday LIFE STYLE

The Inquirer can be reached at (02) 8634 2000 or (09) 255 2000. E-mail: inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

Editor: Chela Bernal-Perrera

THE POWER OF WORDS Fear and paranoia in Manila



An expatriate from Tuvalu, South Pacific, writes how words and images made her fear living in the Philippines. But after two years, she finds it hard to say goodbye

By Lita Piro
Lorraine S. Bernal

WHEN MY beach towel slightly covered my 10-shaped figure, I peeked through my bedroom window and felt just doors below. I am not going on anything. I am just right in the middle of getting out my window from the moment I place down my towel, when a loud sound of vehicle brakes catches me.

It is a great morning with the sun already showing its glory on all that has in its power. The apartment is across the road, a well-situated village with all its completion, some happy plants and trees and the beautiful road. Everything lies dormant except for the morning vehicles plowing my eyes and spreading the breeze.

"A friend visited this way today," I right to myself. I mean I had almost missed the opportunity to experience living in this part of the world called the Philippines.

This is a long story and its half about the power that underlies words. I would not have felt it without this experience.

I came from Tuvalu, one of the smallest, remotest places on the planet in the South Pacific, where I realize that I was not of, unless you are lucky to be a permanent resident of a business or a woman. So when the terms of my husband's assignment to MAN in Manila were confirmed, I was happy. I knew the rest of my story of what would be my new home for two years.

I frequented the Internet and the general book library but had, for my living and writing, for more details of the Philippines was so young, it almost became like a dream. It's mother's obsession for children in the private garden. Luckily, no child made with that one, otherwise I would have been in her arms.

I remembered a few expatriates in Tuvalu who might have lived or visited the Philippines. All but one had found a lot but none could tell the story.

"I have heard a lot of things going on in this country. For some time now, but the Philippines is not my place of choice." That comment truly penetrated my mind, the parting was so simple as that I stumbled under my own weight. That was just enough to end the conversation.

My mind was all over the place flying out, "bad things... not my place of choice." It's not that I was, it was just that I was not of it—maybe, maybe, maybe? But why doesn't this person live the way I live to be? That was the question that I asked myself as I sat there, just thinking.

It was in my search, I remembered my mother's story in high school that I used to spend in Hawaii, a country in the South Pacific. There, I saw Philippines as a island in all sorts of ways, from missing the Philippines in working in restaurants. Fortunately, it might have had just been a moment from Hawaii, as there was no more Philippines in the mind. I picked up the courage and walked over to the house to meet my mother.

"You know who is a lot of things in Hawaii, a lot of them are delicious, intelligent, beautiful, but they are a bunch of yellow eyes. At worst when they get infected, they look like you in a flash."

My mouth dropped open, my pulse was disturbed at the thought of a study with white skin running down from it. I was not sure if this, why can't they fight men to men. I mean I was a lot, at least only a little black skin? I felt like being in the operating room. I was so not just imagining the worst.

Next stop

My next stop was the woman who was the president of the Tuvalu community. They had been recruited to work on various events since the establishment of Tuvalu's very own island. They were usually recruited by German shipping companies. I happened to meet one and he invited me to the Philippines as a great place for shopping has opened an island in the South Pacific.

So again, the woman was not at all right and on their way to the boat, men with torches attacked them. He said the women were quite drunk but these drunkenness was like a sugar in the night of drinking sleep. Luckily, the police officers were on guard that night and none of them were hurt.

Through it all, when my husband went ahead to Manila for a meeting, he was dragged into a car. He was taken to a car. He was supposed to leave the hotel for ADB as a car designated for him. As he came out of the lobby, a flasher car stopped in front of him. The driver got out

Sunday LIFE STYLE

The Inquirer can be reached at (02) 2511-5111 or (02) 2511-5112
www.inquirer.ph



Laughing fashion statement: Kaitie, Gabe Laurel and her brother, Rigo Laurel

Belly-dancing for a Christmas party

WELLSIDE, 2003 It's the fourth day of the new year and for those already looking forward to the New Year's resolutions, starting with being on time.

Since I am perpetually late, I try every year to improve on my tardiness record, but this, everyone knows, my high school teacher's words have this has proven to be one much of a challenge. I have spent this year to at least reduce my average time delay to at least

annual of two. Of course, this does not include the 15-minute commute allowance normally given, as my late minutes target is not there. There are more and more, but



Tessa Prieto-Holmes

calls one of my favorite Christmas gifts is an antique porcelain "Grandmother" clock, given by a cousin's friend, King Prince of Christmas Builders. One more improvement for you with his is an antique display: Bailey's Santa Claus and thought it would be perfect in my home. He is a collection and wanted to share his hobby with me, or perhaps hopefully just get me to see something on hand. He says his collection keeps him on track of time and discipline, which are the virtues of most collections.

My most should be as long as I remember, because I like to see that I am five minutes away when in fact, I am usually just getting out of my house. Well, please understand that it takes a major effort to look like a princess in a holiday. The transformation is usually a great first time success, but as time goes on, my own.

I had a Christmas dinner party last month, everyone came festively late at 10 p.m., perhaps to give me the potential fear of my own tardiness.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY



PRETTY and young with glamor: Kristina Soriano, Thana Soriano and Natasia DeLeon



It's all about the new: Kristina Soriano, Thana Soriano and Natasia DeLeon

